## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /097 W

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R 251522Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2767 INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

**UNCLAS PRAGUE 1396** 

AGRICULTURE FAS FOR G & F

E. O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, CZ

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK GRAIN IMPORT NEEDS CONTINUE

- 1. ON MAY 24 AGATT MET KOOSPO OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S LATEST GRAIN IMPORT SITUATION.
- 2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTINUES TO RELY ON FOREIGN GRAIN TO SUPPLEMENT ITS OWN PRODUCTION FOR USE BY LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY. OFFICIAL AGREED WITH AGATT'S ASSESSMENT THAT 10 MIL. TON GRAIN CROP ENVISAGED FOR 1977 WOULD STILL REQUIRE IMPORTS AROUND 1.5 MIL TONS. HE EXPLAINED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALREADY ATTAINED SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN BREAD GRAINS (WHEAT) BUT GROWING DEMAND FOR MEAT REQUIRE INCREASED USE OF FEED GRAINS BY LIVESTOCK. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED CORN.
- 3. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS WILL BE FOR 1977. FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR THERE IS ADEQUATE SUPPLY THANKS TO LARGE UNCLASSIFIED

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PURCHASES OF GRAIN DURING SECOND HALF OF 1976, INCLUDING 600,000 TONS OF CORN FROM U.S. THIS YEAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO INCREASE CORN PRODUCTION TO 870,000 TONS. IF SUCCEEDED PRODUCTION MAY BE AROUND 300,000 TONS MORE THAN IN 1976.

4. COMMENT: WITH 10 MIL TON GRAIN CROP CZECHOSLOVAKIA

WILL NEED AT LEAST 1.5 MIL TONS OF GRAIN IMPORTS. ABOUT 1.0 MIL TON MAY BE SUPPLIED FROM WITHIN CEMA ASSUMING AVERAGE TO GOOD GRAIN CROP IN USSR AND HUNGARY. THE REST WILL HAVE TO COME FROM THE WEST, CHIEFLY IN THE FORM OF CORN. BYRNE

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